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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ISRAEL: FRACAS IN THE LABOR CORRAL

SIGNS OF INTERNAL BICKERING AND FACTIONALISM ARE INCREASING
WITHIN THE RULING LABOR ALIGNMENT. EMBASSY TEL AVIV SAYS
THAT THE BEST INDICATION OF THE DISSENSION IS THE DIFFI-
CULTY OF DRAFTING A PARTY PLATFORM AND SPECULATES THAT THE
PARTY CONVENTION WILL BE POSTPONED AGAIN OR POSSIBLY CAN-
CELLED ALTOGETHER. THE EMBASSY REPORTS THAT:

--MAPAM HAS SERVED NOTICE THAT IT EXPECTS A MORE MOD-
ERATE STAND ON NEGOTIATION, TERRITORIES, AND THE PAL-
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ESTINIANS.

--THE RAFI FACTION HAS SHOWN NO INCLINATION TO ACCEPT A MORE MODERATE POSITION.

--DAYAN'S CALL FOR RETENTION OF THE WEST BANK AND THE GOLAN STRIP MAY ENCOURAGE POLARIZATION OF THE PARTY AND MAY IMPLICITLY THREATEN A WALKOUT SHOULD THE PARTY ADOPT A DOVISH PLATFORM.

--PERES SEEMS CONVINCED THAT HIS CHANCES FOR A TAKE-OVER OF THE PARTY LEADERSHIP ARE IMPROVING.

EMBASSY COMMENT: BECAUSE ISRAEL IS A FUNCTIONING DEMOCRACY, IT IS PROBABLY INEVITABLE THAT THE UNINTERRUPTED RULE OF THE LABOR PARTY WILL ONE DAY BE BROKEN. LABOR'S CURRENT PROBLEMS INDICATE THAT IT COULD HAPPEN NEXT YEAR. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 5538, 8/12.)

2. THAI-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS

MEMBERS OF THE THAI DELEGATION WHICH VISITED HANOI AUGUST 3-4 TOLD EMBASSY BANGKOK THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS--ALTHOUGH AN EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS IS NOT IN THE OFFING. ON OTHER MATTERS:

--VICE MINISTER PHAN HIEN WAS OBVIOUSLY IN CONTROL ON THE VIETNAMESE SIDE.

--THE ISSUE OF RETURNING GVN PLANES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT TO VIETNAM HAS BEEN SHELVED.

--THE THAIS GAVE TACIT AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE "HUMANITARIAN" AID TO VIETNAM.

--THE VIETNAMESE DID NOT DENY THAT THEY WERE ASSISTING THE INSURGENCY IN NORTHEAST THAILAND.

ACCORDING TO THE THAIS, VIETNAMESE PREOCCUPATION WITH INTERNAL PROBLEMS IS REFLECTED BY THEIR FEAR THAT A LARGE-SCALE DEMOBILIZATION OF THE MILITARY, AND IMPORTATION OF

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WORKERS FROM THE SOUTH, WOULD HAVE A DISRUPTIVE EFFECT ON THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW MUCH THE SUBSTANCE OF THAI-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS HAS BEEN AFFECTED, THERE HAS BEEN A GOOD START AT RAPPROCHEMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 22844, 8/13.)

3. ARGENTINA: WHERE HAVE ALL THE PEOPLE GONE?

EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES REPORTS THAT THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF FOREIGN CITIZENS EITHER MISSING OR DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE IN ARGENTINA. THE TOTAL INCLUDES SOME 40 ITALIANS, 5 WEST GERMANS, 8 FRENCH AND 2 AMERICANS. NUMEROUS EMBASSIES REPORT DENIAL OF CONSULAR ACCESS TO THEIR CITIZENS, AND THE GOA HAS NOT RESPONDED TO THE US PROTEST OVER DENIAL OF ACCESS TO A

DETAINED AMERICAN PRIEST. ISRAEL IS THE ONLY COUNTRY TO HAVE HAD SUCCESS IN OBTAINING THE RELEASE OF ITS NATIONALS, BUT ONLY AFTER INTENSE PRESSURE. (CONFIDENTIAL) BUENOS AIRES 5299, 8/12.) KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, MORNING SUMMARY, POLITICAL PARTIES, ARRESTS, ALIENS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE202860
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: BUMBREY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760313-1156
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760850/aaaabqzp.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PDIP, PINS, CASC, IS, TH, VN, VS, AR
To: NSA JCS TRSY MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006